



United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary
Washington, D C 20250

JAN 08 2008

The Honorable Steve Buyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-1404

Dear Congressman Buyer:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2007, cosigned by your colleagues, to Acting Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Conner supporting Governor Mitch Daniels' request to declare 74 counties in the State of Indiana as major disaster counties. I have been asked to respond on his behalf.

The Department of Agriculture (USDA) is aware that many farmers and ranchers in Indiana, as well as other parts of the country, are suffering from the effects of weather-related disasters. As in the past, this Administration has taken many steps to effectively deal with problems created by these types of weather conditions.

On December 7, 2007, USDA received Governor Daniel's requests for 74 Indiana counties to be designated as disaster areas because of losses caused by drought that occurred from June 5, 2007, to October 2, 2007.

USDA received the Loss Assessment Reports for those 74 counties, on December 19, 2007, along with additional supporting information submitted by the State Executive Director, Indiana Farm Service Agency (FSA). USDA promptly reviewed the Loss Assessment Reports and determined that there were sufficient production losses in all 74 counties to warrant a Secretarial natural disaster designation.

I am pleased to inform you that Acting Secretary Charles F. Conner designated all 74 counties in Governor Daniels' request as primary natural disaster areas on December 27, 2007. Those counties are:

Adams	Fayette	Jay	Noble	Steuben
Allen	Floyd	Jefferson	Ohio	Sullivan
Bartholomew	Franklin	Jennings	Orange	Switzerland
Blackford	Fulton	Johnson	Owen	Tipton
Brown	Gibson	Knox	Parke	Union
Clark	Grant	Kosciusko	Perry	Vanderburgh
Clay	Greene	Lagrange	Pike	Vermillion

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Crawford	Hamilton	Lawrence	Posey	Vigo
Daviess	Hancock	Madison	Putnam	Wabash
Dearborn	Harrison	Marion	Randolph	Warrick
Decatur	Hendricks	Marshall	Ripley	Washington
DeKalb	Henry	Martin	Rush	Wayne
Delaware	Howard	Miami	Scott	Wells
Dubois	Huntington	Monroe	Shelby	Whitley
Elkhart	Jackson	Morgan	Spencer	

In accordance with section 321(a) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, additional areas of your State are named as contiguous disaster counties. Those counties are:

Boone	Cass	Fountain	Pulaski	Starke
Carroll	Clinton	Montgomery	St. Joseph	Warren

This designation makes farm operators in both primary and contiguous counties eligible to be considered for low-interest emergency loans from FSA, provided eligibility requirements are met.

Again, thank you for your letter. A similar letter is being sent to your colleagues

Sincerely,



Mark E. Keenum
Under Secretary
Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services